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FRANK A. MUNSEY

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HEARING ON THE COUDREY RESOLUTION.

Every citizen of Washington who is interested in the proper regulation of the gas companies should recognize the obligation to make his position understood when the District Committee of the House takes up the Coudrey resolution tomorrow.

This is the joint resolution introduced by Representative Coudrey of Missouri some time ago, providing that no gas company in the District shall issue any bonds, certificates of indebtedness, or other evidence of debt, except such as may be necessary to pay for necessary betterments and improvements, without the express consent of Congress.

The resolution, of course, is aimed to put a definite stop to the project now urged by a powerful faction in the gas company, for the issuance of a huge block of bonds. The company claims that its property is worth many millions of dollars more than its present capitalization, and is anxious to issue securities equivalent to the excess.

If the Gas Monopoly is permitted to issue millions of additional stocks or bonds, the charges on these will add so much to its present charge for interest and dividends that there will be an end to all chance of getting the price of gas reduced to a reasonable figure.

There is a special and peculiar reason why Congress ought to take steps preventing this inflation at this time. Within the last year the Gas Monopoly has accepted the principle of making a valuation of its property as the basis of capitalization, and, employing men whom it claims to be qualified experts, has had a valuation made. The public had no part and no representation in making this appraisal. The work was done by the agents of the gas companies, and, of course, was done with a view to pleasing the employers of the "experts." It undoubtedly was pleasing, for it demonstrated, to the satisfaction of the gas officials, that they have some five millions of dollars of property in excess of the present face of their capitalization.

Now, if the Gas Monopoly is to issue capitalization on the basis of a valuation, it is apparent that the valuation ought to be made by experts representing the public, rather than the gas companies.

There is evidence that certain interests in the gas companies are determined to proceed to capitalize their surplus, willy nilly, and then fight out in the courts the serious question whether the action was legal. That procedure can be stopped by passing the Coudrey resolution, which ought to be passed. The resolution makes the necessary exception to allow the companies to raise money for improvements and betterments. As the company has a full treasury it doesn't need money for such purposes. What it wants is to double its capitalization as a safeguard against being compelled, at some time or other, to give the people of the District fair treatment in the price of gas. The Coudrey resolution would put an end to the danger of the Gas Monopoly trying to force inflation without regard to the law.

"BETWEEN STOOLS TWO WE MAY FALL THROUGH."

The decision of the District Board of Education in the Morrill act controversy should do much to eliminate local differences and cause all the educational interests of this community to join in the movement in behalf of George Washington University. The board takes the very logical position that, while it would like to have the benefits of the Morrill act for one of its high schools, it is not in position to request them of Congress at this time, because the high schools do not meet the requirements specified in the Morrill law.

It would seem to the unprejudiced observer that this should settle the dispute, for surely the board knows the conditions of the schools and must be well grounded in its decision that it would be impossible to obtain now the assistance which may ultimately be asked.

Those who have followed the case of George Washington University, and have taken the most prominent part in attempting to obtain the benefits of the Morrill act for this institution, feel much encouraged, yet they realize that "between stools two we may fall through." It is ridiculous to expect Congress, at this time, to grant the

benefits of the Morrill act to more than one school in the District of Columbia. Even if there were no question but that the second applicant is entitled to the benefits, under a strict interpretation of the law, it is extremely doubtful if both institutions could succeed. When it is considered that the claims of one are believed, by its own managers, to be invalid, it is easy to understand how a continuation of the present work in behalf of both schools might prove to be time wasted.

Naturally, Washington would like to have one of its high schools enjoy the benefits of the Morrill appropriation, but this is not the time to act on that desire. If Washington is to try for such benefits it must first establish a high school which shall meet the requirements of the law in question. When this has been done—and it will be a big job in itself—there will be plenty of time to go after the Morrill act benefits. Today it is important that all the District's ammunition be fired at one target.

Just as the George Washington University movement gives promise of being successful, it is threatened by local differences. In other words, it is attacked at home. Besides being basically wrong, this is foolish. The promoters of the high school plan cannot hope to succeed, and if they persist in their efforts there is a possibility that they will merely deprive the community of any assistance whatever.

This is a time for united action, not for disagreement.

THE RESULTS OF CHEAPENING GAS IN NEW YORK.

To the officers of the Washington gas companies, who have latterly been exerting themselves to prevent the public finding out the information to which it is entitled concerning their business, we commend a study of the recent gas statistics of New York city.

When the price of gas in the metropolis was reduced to 80 cents the lawyers for the Consolidated Gas Company based their protest in the courts on the claim that their constitutional rights were being invaded; their property would be confiscated by the new rates. They were able to make a computation which the courts amended, and finally, as amended, accepted, showing that on the basis of its business in the past, the company would earn a trifle under 7 per cent annually. But, said the Supreme Court, while 7 per cent is a reasonable rate which the company is entitled to earn, there is no certainty that the business will not increase under the impetus of lower rates, and the earnings be ample to pay the 7 per cent dividend. Wherefore, the Supreme Court ordered that the new rate be enforced and given a fair trial.

Comes now the public service commission with statistics of the outworkings of the new schedule. It shows that for the first year since the Consolidated decision, 1909, the net profits of the Consolidated system was \$7,583,382. This is an increase over the preceding year of \$3,371,739. The Consolidated sells something over two-thirds of New York's gas. The other concerns show increase of their profits in just about the same proportion as the Consolidated.

Now, these figures prove two or three things that are exactly applicable to Washington. One is that when a public service corporation objects to doing the square thing by the public, it is generally standing in its own light. The Consolidated is without peradventure of doubt better off today for having been defeated in its contention against 80-cent gas. The Boston gas companies have had a like experience with 80-cent gas, the increased business and profits having enabled them a year or so ago to increase their dividend.

The short-sighted, selfish, unthinking policy of opposing everything in the public interest simply BECAUSE it is in the public interest, with never a thought whether it may also be in the interest of the corporation, is the greatest weakness and danger of public service concerns in this country. Our own Washington Gas Monopoly last year reduced the price of gas 10 cents, and its annual report showed almost exactly the same revenues, gross and net, as the year before. The truth is that square dealing actually pays in ledger profits.

Our local monopoly may well contemplate these experiences. It must see that it is certain to meet defeat before long, in its fight against all concession to the public. It is not going to be allowed to carry out its magnificent inflation scheme, and might as well understand that fact. It can't do it without consent of Congress, and it can never get that affirmative consent. In the end, it will fare much better if it will treat the public fairly.

There is reason to believe that Washington is entitled to 75-cent gas immediately, with a sliding scale law under which further reductions may be assured in future. If the gas companies were as wise as they ought to be in view of the object lessons on every hand, they would consent to proper legislation to accomplish these ends.

FREDERICK D. CLOUD ON THE OPEN DOOR.

Frederick D. Cloud, former American consul at Mukden, in Manchuria, an expert on conditions in the Far East, has written a long article on the situation in Manchuria which illuminates that much discussed subject in a manner worthy of attention.

Mr. Cloud is not impressed with the protestations that the open door is still open for American trade in Manchuria. The official pronouncements that all is as it should be in that neck o' the woods have not convinced him against

the facts as he has observed them. It will be recalled that Mr. Cloud, when consul at Mukden, wrote letters to the State Department in which he criticized the course of the Japanese. Because one of these letters found its way into print, through no fault of his own, the State Department recalled Mr. Cloud, and he was forced out of the service as a reward for his plain-speaking.

Mr. Cloud says: Under present conditions, to the contrary of the soft-purring assurances of the Tokyo foreign office notwithstanding, American merchants do not enjoy to the full extent the trade privileges and opportunities in Manchuria which an honest and scrupulous adherence to the principle of the open door on the part of Japan and Russia, especially Japan, would afford them.

The control and practical monopoly of transportation facilities, according to Mr. Cloud, enables Russia and Japan, through the manipulation of freight rates and customs duties, to place the American merchant at a great disadvantage in comparison with his more favored competitors. He says that step by step, by ways dark and devious at times, but none the less effective, Japan the last four years has been steadily tightening her grip on Manchuria, making her position firm and secure, to the disadvantage of everybody else.

Mr. Cloud believes, what Americans generally are coming to be more and more convinced of, that the integrity of the Chinese empire and American trade in that empire are at stake. It may be we can do nothing about it, but it is at least valuable to have our eyes opened.

Mr. Gaynor's order that the New York police shall not use their jobs as a means of grafting indicates the mayor's desire to elevate the standard of the cops above those of certain New York legislators.

Mrs. Pec, of Utica, N. Y., who broke her neck resisting a man's attempt to hug her, should have played the game according to Caspar Whitney's new and safe football rules.

It is not to be doubted that some judge will be found willing to take Justice Brewer's place in spite of the hard work men of the Supreme Bench have to do.

Woodrow Wilson, in pronouncing the doom of "special privileges," should remember that his doom was uttered so long ago as to come within the statute of limitations.

Now that everybody knows where the North and South Poles are located, will some one kindly discover all the money necessary to pay for the Easter hats?

In the middle of the Atlantic ocean Gifford Pinchot can survey a scene where no forest has been ravaged and no water-flow unchecked.

With the opening of the baseball season, the wise office boy will try to think out something better than the grandmother excuse.

The "Yellow Pup" fund at Albany seems to have gotten hydrophobia and bitten everybody who touched it.

As soon as the University of Cairo had given Colonel Roosevelt a degree, he gave the Egyptians a lecture.

The police reports show that Satan used his forty days of rest cooking up some rather awful crimes.

What's on the Program Tonight in Washington

Concert for benefit of Y. W. C. A. vacation house, Y. M. C. A. assembly hall, in 7 street, 8 p. m.

Entertainment and culture by the Tabernacle Society, Trinity parish hall, Thirty-sixth and N streets, 8 p. m.

Bible reading by Mrs. R. I. Steele, Bond building, 7:30 p. m.

Theaters.

National—Marie Tempest, in "Penelope," 8:15 p. m.

Belasco—French Opera Company, 8:20 p. m.

Columbia—"The Girl With the Whoopee Cough," 8:15 p. m.

Casino—Continous vaudeville.

Academy—Ward and Vokes, 8:15 p. m.

Gaiety—Fads and Follies Company, 8:15 p. m.

Lycium—Sam T. Jack's show, 8:15 p. m.

Majestic—Vaudeville and motion pictures, 7 to 11 p. m.

Arcade—Midway and other attractions.

(The Times will be pleased to announce meetings and entertainments in this column. Phone or write announcements.)

The Young Lady Across the Way

We asked
the young lady
across the way
if she thought
the business
situation was
improving and
she said she
guessed it must
be because she
overheard her
father say that
he never had
so many accounts to carry
before.

Hartman

In the Mail Bag

The Times will accept for publication in its Mail Bag columns, short, vigorous letters on questions of public interest. It cannot undertake to publish letters exceeding 250 words, and reserves the right rigidly to condense communications which are of greater length. Letters should be written on one side of the paper only, and must contain the name and address of the writer, but these will not be published if request to that effect is made.

Eliminate Cruelty.

To the Editor of The Washington Times: The Senate Committee on District Affairs is to be congratulated for its ruling on the cruelty to dumb animal question.

We have no doubt as to the House committee's action on this matter. Now that the humane question is being agitated let the humane society have the following laws enacted which practically cover all the cruelties:

1. Abolish from all drivers' hands whips, clubs, or anything that will cause to be, especially the whips.

2. Remove from all horses that torture second to whips, the check rein used to make broken down horses look young.

3. Brakes on all day wagons to relieve the burden from horses' necks, especially when we have so many bare ones here.

4. Four thousand pounds a load for three horses; over that cruelty. Fave police and humane officers stop these teams and sue weight.

5. No horse over 1,500 pounds to be allowed out of a walk. We see too many overloaded and heavy horses being run with heavy loads on in this city.

6. Encourage police officers by fining law breakers \$50 instead of \$10, or \$25. Officers arrests a man for cruelty and he goes to court only to find he has forfeited the collateral and goes right on working that team as he did the day before. Fine him \$50 first offense, and jail sentence second time. None of these agree owners can stand that long.

7. Above all an animal inspector, clothed with authority to condemn horses without any red tape connection with (Not be a humane agent).

8. Authority to be given Humane Society to go into our public schools and start humane mercy societies among the rising generation, and a member of the society to give a weekly talk to all children in school, and in this way make humane officers of the young folks.

9. Let the Humane Society, the public police, the school children and the horse owners all hand together to stop these cruelties.

10. Arrest the owner of horses not drivers, when animals are lame or sore. The owners always want to lay it on the driver, but often times it would be better to publish the names of the dumb beasts.

Thanking The Times for the work they are doing here in Washington, and hoping the Times will publish the names of the dumb beasts.

SUBSCRIBER,
Washington, March 22

Capital Tales

Why He Likes Washington.

"WOULD you like to know why I stay in Washington?"

It was Speaker Cannon who asked the curious question, and he did it at a dinner given by one of the members of the Cabinet. The President, the Speaker, and the other guests had withdrawn to smoke following dinner, and the stories were going this and that.

Everybody wanted to know why the Speaker insisted upon staying in Washington.

"I'll tell you the truth about it," declared Uncle Joe. "You see, when I am out in Danville I don't amount to anything whatever. I walk along the street, and nobody pays any particular attention to me. I am as common as an old shoe. Here in Washington I can be something of a personage."

The speaker turned and swept his eyes over the gathering, and then he said: "The beautiful room, the table laden with flowers, the attractions of a most fetching table."

"Here I find everything I want or need; everything I want and don't need. Here there are the best cooks in the city. We get the finest products of any climates, brought especially for us. The liquor for the occasion comes in the wood from Scotland and France."

"Gentlemen," and the speaker leaned against a corner of the table and clasped his hands across his waistband in a gesture whose significance could not possibly be mistaken, "that is what I came here for."

Eloquence of Bartholdt.

REPRESENTATIVE BARTHOLDT of Missouri, who is the leading exponent of international peace in the House, waxed eloquent in the extreme the other day, in speaking against two battleships.

"Today," said Bartholdt, "more than 4,000,000 men are confined to the routine drudgery of barracks, while millions more labor to support them. The increase of armaments goes on until it means slow destruction in time of peace or swift destruction in the event of war."

An ominous hush hangs over Europe. In the silence we can hear the clang of the hammer in the shipyard as bolts are bolted and beams by beams the mighty engines of destruction take shape.

Miss Flora Wilson, daughter of the Secretary of Agriculture, is spending a few days with her father at the Portland, Me., home.

Mrs. G. F. Downey, of Bancroft place, was hostess at a tea yesterday afternoon in compliment to her sister, Mrs. Berry. Mrs. Downey and Mrs. Berry were assisted in receiving the guests by another sister, Mrs. Fairfax Landstreet.

The tea table, which was joined with a centerpiece of spring flowers, was presided over by Mrs. Fokias, Mrs. George W. Downey, and Mrs. Arthur Lee.

Dinner Party At Japanese Embassy.

The Japanese Ambassador and Baroness Uchida had dining with them last evening the British Ambassador and Mrs. James Bryce, Representative Denby, the Assistant Secretary of the Navy and Mrs. Beekman Winthrop, the Assistant Secretary of War and Mrs. Robert Shaw Oliver, Gen. and Mrs. Tasker H. Bliss, Miss Mabel Boardman, the military attaché of the Russian embassy and his sister, Baroness Elizabeth de Bode, Prof. and Mrs. Andrews, Senator Lon Gorman Halle, second secretary of the Mexican embassy; Miss Wood, sister of Representative Wood of New Jersey; Miss Annie McClure, Miss Harriet McClure, and the Counselor of the Embassy and Mme. Matsui, Mr. Hanbara and Mr. Takahashi, of the embassy staff.

Mr. and Mrs. Alexander Britton entertained last evening at Rauchers' for their school-girl daughter, Miss Margaret Britton. Among the guests were Palms, ferns and quantities of spring flowers adorned the house. An orchestra furnished the music for the dancers and a buffet supper was served.

"At Homes" in Society

Mrs. MacVeagh, wife of the Secretary of the Treasury, will not receive this afternoon.

Mrs. Wickham, wife of the Attorney General, will be at home today after 4 o'clock.

Mrs. Duncan Upshaw Fletcher and the Misses Fletcher, of 145 Massachusetts avenue, wife and daughters of Senator Fletcher, have issued cards for an at home on Thursday, March 31, from 4 to 7 o'clock.

Mrs. Walter McLean, 1255 New Hampshire avenue, will be at home tomorrow afternoon for the last time this season.

Miss Constance Hoyt Married Today To Ferdinand von Stumm, of Germany



MRS. FERDINAND VON STUMM.

Miss Caroline Brownson Weds Lieut.-Comdr. Hart

Miss Caroline Brownson and Lieut. Comdr. Thomas C. Hart, U. S. N., were married at noon today in the home of the bride's parents, 161 N. street. Chaplain Clark, U. S. N., stationed at the Naval Academy, at Annapolis, performed the ceremony in the presence of a small gathering of relatives and intimate friends.

The bride was attended by her sister, Mrs. C. L. Hussey, wife of Lieutenant Commander Hussey, U. S. N., as matron of honor and by Miss Harriet Sutherland, of Washington; Miss Edith Fuller, of Brookline, Mass., and Miss Cecile Gifford, of Jamestown, N. Y., as bridesmaids.

Miss Brownson wore white satin and the groomsmen were Lieut. Comdr. R. K. Crank, Lieut. Comdr. L. M. Overstreet, and Lieut. Hugo W. Osterhaus, U. S. A.

Lieut. Comdr. Leigh C. Palmer, aide to the President, acted as best man and the groomsmen were Lieut. Comdr. R. K. Crank, Lieut. Comdr. L. M. Overstreet, and Lieut. Hugo W. Osterhaus, U. S. A.

Mr. and Mrs. A. C. Downing announce the engagement of their daughter, Vera de Reisel, to William W. Finley, Jr.

Miss Downing, who is one of the most attractive and popular girls in Washington, made her debut two seasons ago. Mr. Finley is the son of the President of the Southern railway, and Mrs. W. W. Finley.

The date of the wedding has not been set.

Mr. and Mrs. Ten Eyck Wendell were hosts at a dinner party last evening in honor of Miss Adele Thayer, of Boston.

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The tea table, which was joined with a centerpiece of spring flowers, was presided over by Mrs. Fokias, Mrs. George W. Downey, and Mrs. Arthur Lee.

Miss Endora Clover, daughter of Rear Admiral and Mrs. Richardson Clover, who has been spending several weeks in New York, has returned to Washington.

Miss Dolly Lynch, of Lakewood, N. J., will arrive in Washington shortly to be the guest of Mr. and Mrs. Evan Sinclair Cameron.

Representative and Mrs. Wheeler, who have as their guests for the Easter holidays, their sons, A. R. Wheeler and W. R. Wheeler, of Yale, entertained a party of young people at tea at the New York hotel yesterday afternoon at 4 o'clock. The guests of honor were Miss McCall, daughter of Representative McCall, and Cornelius Lombardi, recently elected to the editorial staff of the Yale "Lit," who is visiting Lieutenant and Mrs. Barbour for the Easter holidays.

Tableau Interests Artists.

The first tableau in the set of twelve to be given on April 7 at Continental Hall for the House of Mercy, has attracted the interest of Washington artists.

"Captain John Smith Teaching the Little Pocahontas" is the subject of the tableau, which is in charge of Mrs. Elizabeth T. Andrews. Mr. Andrews, who is an artist of wide reputation, organized the Corcoran Art School, daughter, Miss Mary Lord Andrews, who will take the part of Pocahontas, is a direct descendant of "King Carter," the Fauntleroy, and the Randolphs, through whom she goes back to Pocahontas.

Karl Rakemann, as Captain Smith, and Spencer Nichols, as Powhatan, are both well known in art circles of Washington.

Miss Alice Reading and Miss Catherine Carter Critcher, who take the parts of Indian women, are equally well known in Washington. Miss Critcher has recently returned from Paris, where she organized a school in portraiture.

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Cleveland Perkins were among the dinner hosts of last evening.

President Will Attend Navy Yard Ball Tonight

The principal event of this evening will be the ball en tete and drill for the benefit of the Navy Relief Society, which will be held at the Navy Yard, at 9 o'clock.

Mrs. Meyer, wife of the Secretary of the Navy; Mrs. Newberry, wife of the former Secretary of the Navy; Mrs. Beekman Winthrop, wife of the Assistant Secretary of the Navy; Mrs. Lester, wife of Rear Admiral Lester; Mrs. Richardson Clover, wife of Rear Admiral Clover, and Mrs. R. T. Mulligan comprise the committee of six in charge of arrangements, and will also receive the guests at the ball.

Music for the dancing, which will begin at 9:30 o'clock, will be furnished by the Marine Band.

Flags, bunting, palms and vari-colored electric lights will adorn the ballroom and the room where supper will be served.

The feminine contingent will appear in fancy dresses, having their costume powdered or adorned with flowers, feathers or birds. The military and naval officers present will wear the full dress uniforms of their rank, as a mark of respect to the President.

President and Mrs. Taft are to attend, and on their arrival, at 10:30 o'clock, the drill will be given by the sailors of the Mayflower, Dolphin, and the Navy Yard. The jacks from the Mayflower will wear white uniforms, those from the Dolphin, blue, and from the Yard, blue and white.

Admiral Dewey, who is president of the Navy Relief Society, will attend the ball, accompanied by Mrs. Dewey.

A large number of dinner parties will precede the dance.

The Misses Sutherland entertained a party of young people at a dinner last evening preceding the ball at the German embassy.

Announcement is made of the marriage of Miss Annabell Burdell, of Chicago, and Frank W. Burdine, of Washington. The marriage took place at Crown Point, Ind., on Saturday, March 12.

After June 15 Mr. and Mrs. Burdine will be at home at 140 U street. Mr. Burdine is the son of Mr. and Mrs. William A. Burdine, of Washington.

Miss Estelle Carter, the school-girl daughter of Mrs. J. Burner Crane, who is home for the Easter holidays, has invited out for two luncheons, one on Thursday and one on Saturday.

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Daughter of State Department Counsel Wife of Embassy Secretary.

President Taft and Ambassador von Bernstorff Invited Guests.

President Taft, a classmate of the bride's father at Yale; the German Ambassador and Countess von Bernstorff, as the bridegroom's colleagues, the members of the German embassy staff, were among the few invited guests at the wedding at noon today of Miss Constance Hoyt and Ferdinand von Stumm, second secretary of the German embassy. This was the first wedding of the spring season, and one of international interest.

The Rev. Roland Cotton Smith, rector of the fashionable St. John's Episcopal Church,